



Cabinet Maker Reduces Warranty Claims with Remote Paint Kitchen Monitoring and Control

CUSTOMER

Wood cabinetry manufacturer and finisher

GRACO EQUIPMENT

Intelligent Paint Kitchen

CHALLENGE

In the cabinet industry, consistent finish can be everything. Inconsistent finishes frequently led to rejected parts and warranty claims at one large cabinet manufacturer.

The problem was that stain color depends on how the material circulates. If it moves too fast or too slow, it will affect the end result color.

Because there are so many variables in their system that affect circulation speeds, the paint technician had to check cycle rates, agitator speeds, and fluid pressure on more than 30 stations, multiple times per day. This kept him from tending to his other job duties.

SOLUTION

They needed to circulate and agitate the material at the right speed in order to provide a higher quality, more consistent finish. The solution needed to free up the technician to fulfill all job duties, while still overseeing paint kitchen parameters.

They considered three options:

- A Binks paint supply and circulating pump solution with a custom configuration that seemed complicated to the company.
- A system put together by the customer's engineering and I.T. that could alert them of parameter changes, but didn't provide control from outside the paint room. This homemade solution seemed inexpensive. However, it wasn't serviceable, or even usable, if the designers

were no longer working at the plant's location.

- Graco's Intelligent Paint Kitchen with an out-of-the box setup, all Graco standard parts, and a way to remotely monitor and control paint room pumps and tanks.

RESULTS

They set up a side-by-side trial between the homemade solution and one Intelligent Paint Kitchen unit including the E-Flo DC pump, electric agitator, material level sensor. The Graco system quickly won over the cabinet manufacturer.

During the six-month trial, they lowered reject and warranty claims enough to justify the purchase of several more Intelligent Paint Kitchen units. The paint technician's time was freed up immensely, allowing him to move forward with the rest of his job responsibilities.

Paint line employees can now oversee agitation, pump pressure, cycle rates, fluid PSI, flow rates and barrel levels from anywhere during the workday. All of this information is available at their fingertips with real-time notifications from the touchscreen control panel outside the paint booth, a mobile device, or email.

